Texas Education Agency

AMERICAS H S

ECHS Renewal Application

2023-2024

Contents

Background

District Affiliation

SOCORRO ISD

CD #: 071909
Region: 19
Mailing Address (Line 1): 12440 ROJAS DR
Mailing Address (Line 2):
City, State, Zip: EL PASO, TX 79928

School Affiliation

AMERICAS H S

CDC #: 071-909-004
Region:
Mailing Address (Line 1): 12101 PELLICANO
Mailing Address (Line 2):
City, State, Zip: EL PASO, TX 79936

Academy Information

What is the academy name?

Trailblazers Early College

Which model does the district intend to implement at this time? Within these models, there are variations.

School-Within-School (SWS) - A subset of students on the campus are enrolled in grades 9-12 are enrolled in the academy.

Distinguished Recognition

Grade Levels Served

What grade level(s) will your academy plan to serve?

9
10
11
12

Enter the number of students that you plan to serve in 9th grade.

135

Enter the number of students that you plan to serve in 10th grade.

135

Enter the number of students that you plan to serve in 11th grade.

135

Enter the number of students that you plan to serve in 12th grade.

135

Contacts

Applicant

Applicant 1

Job Title

Director of Trailblazers Early College

Name Prefix

Mr.

First Name

Steven

Last Name

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Phone

915-937-2803

Principal

Principal 1

Name Prefix

Ms.

First Name

Nancy

Last Name

Torres

Email

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Phone

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Superintendent

Superintendent 1

Name Prefix

Dr.

First Name

Nate

Last Name

Carman

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915-937-0000

Narratives

Narratives

The majority of the following questions will be narrative response. Narrative responses are limited to a maximum of 250 words. We recommend writing your responses in a text-editing software such as Microsoft Word and then pasting your responses into the website when they are complete. Progress to the next section when you are ready.

Narratives: Degrees and Credentials: IHE Agreements, Degrees and Credentials, Recruitment and Enrollment

Degrees and Credentials

Select the Career Cluster(s) that your academy plans to offer.

Business Marketing Finance
Education and Training
Health Science
Hospitality & Tourism
Human Services
Information Technology
Law & Public Service
STEM

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.

Accounting and Financial Services
Business Management
Entrepreneurship
Marketing and Sales

Select the Career Cluster(s) that your academy plans to offer.

Biomedical Science
Engineering

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.

Early Learning
Teaching and Training

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.

Nursing Science

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.

Culinary Arts

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.

Family and Community Services

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.

Information Technology Support and Services

Select the Program(s) of Study your academy plans to offer.

Government and Public Administration
Law Enforcement

Which of the following credential(s) does the academy plan to offer students?

AD

What associate degree(s) does the academy plan to offer?

Item

Biology

Criminal Justice

Business

Engineering

Recruitment and Enrollment

Describe any changes in established plans for recruitment and enrollment process that meet open enrollment requirements.

Our school district allows for recruitment to Trailblazers Early College (TEC) from within our feeder middle schools only. This year, we continue to hold our 8th grade meetings in person at both of our feeder middle schools. We will present to every 8th grade student at each of our two feeder middle schools by meeting each period with students in their Physical Education class and Entrepreneurship class. The presentation will include information from our TEC Director, Counselor and two of our current early college Senior students, who had attended the particular middle school. We emphasized that all students are invited to apply and will inform them all students who apply have an equal chance of being selected through an open lottery selection process. After our 8th grade student presentation, a follow-up virtual parent meeting will take place for any parents who are interested in their child joining the program. An online application will be utilized this year and the application link will be posted on the high school and feeder middle school websites for anyone who would like to apply.

Degrees and Credentials: IHE Agreements

Does the IHE partner currently have an articulation agreement with a four-year IHE detailing how a student's associate degree and accrued credits could lead to a baccalaureate degree?

Yes

Provide the university name that your IHE partner has an articulation agreement with and the bachelor degree that students could earn using their associate degree and accrued credits. Each row represents a degree.

2-Year Degree	University	4-Year Degree
AS Biological Science	UTEP	BS Biology
AA Psychology	UTEP	BA Psychology
AA Criminal Justice	UTEP	BA Criminal Justice

Narratives: Strategic Partnerships

Strategic Partnerships

IHE Partner 1

Affiliation

El Paso Community College

Name Prefix

Ms.

First Name

Tonie

Last Name

Badillo

Email

mbadill4@epcc.edu

Phone

915-831-6755

Job Title

Dean of Dual Credit and Early College High Schools

The Early College High School shall have a current, signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for each school year that defines the partnership between the school district(s) and the institution(s) of higher education (IHE).

Describe how the IHE articulation agreement addresses the following IHE Blueprint Requirement: Curriculum alignment and courses of study, which enables a student to combine high school courses and college-level courses to earn either an associate degree, postsecondary certificate provided by an IHE, or industry certification.

The articulation agreement (Interlocal Agreement) between Socorro Independent School District (SISD) and El Paso Community College (EPCC) addresses Benchmark 2, Curriculum Alignment, under Section 5 Academic Plan. An academic plan is developed for each student to enable them to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree. In addition to college credits being earned through dual credit coursework, TEC is responsible for administering all End-of-Course (EOC) exams and transcribing all college courses to the students' transcript according to the district defined crosswalk. Pathways to an associate degree are additionally outlined in the articulation agreement through defined courses of study and curriculum alignment. TEC students are provided with courses of study that meet the requirements of the Associates of Arts or Science Degree, as well as the Distinguished Level of Achievement diploma in the following endorsement categories: STEM, Business and Industry, Public Service, Arts and Humanities, and Multidisciplinary Studies. Additional courses of study must be approved by the campus Principal and the appropriate EPCC Dean on an individual basis. The curriculum for TEC students is developed to ensure that each student has the ability and opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree in four years. Course and curriculum alignment is reviewed annually by the Advisory Committee as outlined in the articulation agreement.

Describe how the IHE articulation agreement addresses the following IHE Blueprint Requirements: Policies for: 1) advising students on the transferability of all college credit offered and earned, 2) ensuring the IHE transcripts college credit earned through dual credit in the same semester that credit is earned, 3) advising students as to the transferability and applicability to baccalaureate degree plans for all college credit offered and earned (college credits earned during high school should allow students to progress from an associate degree to a bachelor's degree and beyond in their chosen field), 4) students accessing the IHE facilities, services and resources

Trailblazers Early College has two dedicated Counselors and Director as defined in the articulation agreement to ensure students are advised on the transferability of all college credit offered and earned. All TEC students have access to EPCC Student Services including EPCC counseling services. In addition to the requirements in the agreement, seniors have access to a transition counselor who further advises students on the transferability and applicability of their course work to baccalaureate degree plans at their planned college of choice. TEC students' dual credit courses are transcribed onto the high school transcript as outlined in Section 5 of the articulation agreement. When students take college courses at EPCC, the early college counselor and administrator are responsible for transcribing student grades following policy EIC(LOCAL). Students who take college classes at the early college site with a credentialed SISD teacher have their grades transcribed automatically through the student

information system. All grades adhere to the requirements outlined in the IHE syllabus as well the appropriate grade conversion for the high school grade as stated in policy EIC(LOCAL). All Trailblazers Early College students have full access to El Paso Community College Student services as outlined in Section 10B of the agreement. Student services provided by EPCC include the issuance of an EPCC ID, access to EPCC's online library databases, material and resources, on-campus tutoring centers, online tutoring services, Academic Computer Services labs and libraries, and access to participation in student government and clubs.

Describe how the IHE articulation agreement addresses the following IHE Blueprint Requirements: Transportation costs and fees including provisions for discontinuing operation while ensuring students previously enrolled will have opportunity to complete their course of study.

SISD ensures that transportation routes for students attending courses at all EPCC site facilities are available during the fall and spring terms. Bus routes also include roundtrip transportation for students to attend official school activities, such as daily classes in an approved class, orientation, etc. Beyond the requirements outlined in Section 10E of the agreement, SISD provides early college students transportation for summer classes scheduled at EPCC sites. In the event of non-renewal or termination of the agreement, students are afforded the opportunity to complete their course of study. Section 19, Renewal or Termination, states that termination will not occur during the middle of a school year in order to prevent disruption of the academic progress of TEC students. If the agreement is terminated, TEC will continue operation through the 11th grade cohort's scheduled graduation from high school. Students enrolled in the 9th and 10th grade will also be able to continue through graduation by agreement. In the event of a termination, TEC will not be able to enroll any additional students in grades that have been phased out but will continue to meet all the required design elements and provide full support for those who are still enrolled in Trailblazers Early College.

Describe how the IHE articulation agreement addresses the following IHE Blueprint Requirements: Data sharing agreement that includes provisions for teacher data such as qualifications and student level data such as credit hours taken and earned, GPA, formative data to assess if student is on track for college readiness

Per the articulation agreement, data is shared and collected for required reporting purposes and for internal purposes to include student level data. The school district and the IHE agree to share any data required for the successful completion of the TEC students' graduation plans and with the hiring of qualified staff members for dual credit teaching assignments. When sharing teacher data for qualifications, EPCC discipline faculty will serve on the TEC teacher hiring committees. The SISD and EPCC will collect and review the following disaggregated data: number of credit hours taken and earned; GPAs; EOC results; SAT/ACT/PSAT; TSIA2 readiness by grade level; qualifications of early college staff; and the location(s) where courses are taught. Any program improvements are based on the collection, review, and sharing of the following data: EPCC data; SISD data; articulation of high school students in four-year colleges/universities and level of entry and enrollment/retention rates; and leaver codes and attrition rates by grade level. Additionally, TEC will participate in instructional success and faculty satisfaction surveys. Survey data is shared by EPCC the semester following the evaluations and may be used in program improvements.

Narratives: Advanced Academics

Advanced Academics

Select the type of advanced courses (dual credit/AP/IB) your campus plans to offer students.

DC
AP

What type of dual credit courses does your campus plan to offer?

AGCM

Describe any challenges in ensuring your academy has educators with qualification to teach dual credit. What steps did your academy take to address the need?

Recruiting and retaining educators, who are credentialed through EPCC, is one of the greatest challenges facing Trailblazers Early College. When a credentialed teacher leaves, it is very difficult to find teachers who have the correct SBEC certificate and EPCC credentialing. To address these challenges, the district has implemented a dual credit teacher scholarship. Through a partnership with the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), SISD has implemented a Dual Credit Scholarship where interested teachers apply for and take graduate level coursework that leads to credentialing in areas of high demand such as biology and economics. To address retention of credentialed staff, teachers who receive the Dual Credit Scholarship must commit to three years with the district upon credentialing and will receive a stipend for each dual credit section they teach. At the campus level, the TEC Director supports the dual credit scholarship by identifying future courses based on student enrollment to recruit teachers to apply for the scholarship. To support current staff, EPCC hosts faculty and online facilitator workshops at the beginning of each college term as well as required discipline meetings that include learning objective and syllabus updates. The TEC Director also provides specific professional development for the faculty to enhance classroom instruction and provides TSIA2 workshops to encourage purposeful TSIA2 student support. With the combined efforts of the campus, district, and IHE, the district continues to recruit, educate, and place credentialed teachers in the early college.

Is the academy a TSIA testing site?

Yes

Narratives: Curriculum and Support

Curriculum and Support

Provide examples of how the campus plans to provide students with academic services. List activities and brief descriptions of the activities. Add a new row for each provided service.

Activity	Description
Enroll all 9th graders in AVID	Every 9th Grade early college student will be enrolled in AVID for the entire year providing organizational strategies, leadership skills and TSIA2 tutoring support.
Provide TSIA2 Support	TSIA2 Camps have been provided to our students for the new TSIA2 ELAR and Essay tests. These are offered during both Fall and Spring intersessions, summer, and throughout the year by our TEC English teachers.
Tutoring	All teachers will provide morning tutoring twice a week. Advanced Academic tutoring will also be provided after school and/or on Saturdays. Online tutoring with EPCC, our IHE, is also available to all students. Dual credit teachers are shown how students can gain access to this tutoring service through the college. They will then illustrate and model the process for the students so they know how to get access themselves.
Provide mentorship through Leadership Council	We will continue having our leadership council advocate for and mentor our early college students. In addition, EPCC counselors provide counseling sessions at TEC to advise our students with their degree plans.

Provide examples of how the campus plans to provide students with wrap-around services. List activities and brief descriptions of the activities. Add a new row for each wrap-around service.

Activity	Description
Work with industry partnerships to meet with our students	Students will meet with professionals in their choice of study. This includes personnel in the medical field, lawyers, and engineers. We will continue to work with Workforce Solutions to provide direction as we did last year, which was facilitated virtually.
Community Service	We will seek opportunities for students to participate in community service events, both on campus and in the community. Some examples include Americas High School Turkey Basket item donation, Coach Brown's Holiday Toy Drive, and assistance at the TEC Stole Ceremony.
Student Mentorship Program	Upper classmen will be mentors for our underclassmen in the mentorship program. This will not only allow students to learn how to adapt to the rigor of advanced academics, but will also help us in assisting those students both socially and emotionally. We will work with our TEC Leadership Council to do so.

How does your academy use the access, achievement, and attainment data for program improvement?

Trailblazers Early College periodically reviews access, achievement, and attainment data to make decisions to improve the early college and increase the success of all students. This includes reviewing the Early College HS blueprint and the program's progress with stakeholders. This assists us in making decisions to help us reach the required OBMs in each of the three Benchmarks. In Benchmark 1: Target Population, we look at the data indicators for our subpopulations, including percentage of at-risk students and economically disadvantaged students. This helps us determine where our focus needs to be in getting more students in special populations to apply. In Benchmark 4: Curriculum and Support, we look at data focusing on certain college course completion requirements and graduation degrees. Here we look at data such as completing English and Math college courses by 11th grade and those earning at least 30 college credits. Benchmark 5: Academic Rigor and Readiness, focuses on requirements based on TSIA2 college readiness and Algebra I and English II EOC student success. For this Benchmark, we look at student data to see if students have passed and offer interventions to help them when they retest to qualify for dual credit classes.

Narratives: Leadership Team

Leadership Team

List the Leadership Team's three priorities for the next year and describe how the selected priority contributes to the academy's success. Each priority should be a benchmark from the ECHS/T-STEM/P-TECH Blueprint.

Benchmark	Description
Benchmark 1: Target Population	The improvement of the recruitment of students who are at risk and are of low socioeconomic status will help TEC meet Benchmark 1 Access Outcome-Based Measures. These OBMs include serving 25% or less at-risk students compared to the District. It also includes serving no more than 10% under the district's 9th-12th grade percentage of economically disadvantaged students.
Benchmark 4: Curriculum and Support	The ECHS will establish a mentoring program available to all students. This will not only assist students academically but will include social and emotional support. Also included in Benchmark 4 is partnering with community businesses so students are able to meet professionals who represent careers from the major they have chosen. This could lead to possible internship opportunities.
Benchmark 5: Academic Rigor and Readiness	Using TSIA2 assessment data will assist TEC to identify student weaknesses and create targeted interventions for students. This will help them prepare to retake the TSIA2 Test(s) that they have not passed. TEC English I teachers took a TSIA2 test so they can formulate purposeful interventions during our TSIA2 Camps.

Narratives: Benchmark Products

Benchmark Products

On this page, you must provide a hyperlink to the location where your digital products corresponding to the product and activities that are required to be posted by the first day of serving students. Enter the hyperlink here. Hyperlinks must be entered with the fully qualified URL including "HTTP://" or "HTTPS://".

https://www.sisd.net/Page/53570